

Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore

Forty-Seventh Session
Geneva, June 5 to 9, 2023

REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND GENETIC RESOURCES

Document Submitted from the Delegation of China

1. On May 5, 2023, the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) received a request from the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) to submit the “Report on the International Symposium on Intellectual Property, and Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources” for discussion by the Forty-Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC).

2. Pursuant to the request above, the Annex to this document contains the aforementioned report.

3. *The Committee is invited to take note of the report in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

Report on the International Symposium on Intellectual Property, and Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources

Prepared by the China National Intellectual Property Administration

On November 28 and 29, 2022, the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) co-organized a virtual *International Symposium on Intellectual Property, and Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources* (International Symposium). The International Symposium was fully funded by the China Fund-in-trust (CHINA FIT), with interpretation into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Around 150 participants attended the International Symposium.

The International Symposium provided an opportunity for Member States and Observers to share regional, national and local practices, experiences and substantive issues regarding the intellectual property (IP) protection of traditional knowledge (TK) and genetic resources (GRs).

In the opening, Mr. Lu Pengqi, Deputy Commissioner of CNIPA, emphasized that the International Symposium was a vigorous initiative to promote the protection and utilization of TK and GRs and to facilitate the building of the global IP ecosystem. Mr. Edward Kwakwa, Assistant Director General of the Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector of WIPO, highlighted that IP protection of TK contributed to indigenous, rural and local economic development, cultural heritage preservation, sustainable development and actions to combat climate change, among others. He also highlighted that the interface between IP and genetic resources could contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, rural development and innovation in the life sciences. Ms. Lilyclaire Bellamy, the Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), underscored that the organization of the International Symposium was at a critical juncture in the work of the IGC.

On November 28, 2023, speakers from the public and private sectors and indigenous communities shared their regional, national and community experiences in using intellectual property as a tool to protect traditional knowledge and foster economic growth and sustainable development. The panel explored the possibilities for the IP protection of TK and GRs to support entrepreneurial activities for the benefit of indigenous peoples and local communities. This roundtable discussion was moderated by Mr. Bai Guangqing, Director General, International Cooperation Department, CNIPA, China. The speakers were:

- Mr. Huang Shaowen, Professor and Director of the Ethnic Cultural Heritage Research Centre of Honghe College, Yunnan Province, China
- Ms. Edwina Lewis, Director of Policy and International Affairs, IP Australia, Australia
- Ms. Xing Yue, Vice President, Alibaba Group, China
- Ms. Liz Lenjo, Managing Consultant, MYIP Legal Studio, Kenya
- Ms. Fanny Monserrate Vergara Ibarra, Member, Vargas Torres Community, Ecuador

Mr. Huang shared how the Hani people, an ethnic group in China, use IP tools to protect their TK-based products. Ms. Lewis presented the IP protection of indigenous knowledge in Australia, in particular, IP Australia's Indigenous Knowledge 2022-2023 Work Plan. Ms. Xing spoke about the experience of Alibaba Group with e-commerce in support of IP protection of TK-based products. Ms. Lenjo presented her views on the IP protection of TK from the perspective of an IP law practitioner. Ms. Vergara Ibarra, a Member of the Vargas Torres Community in Ecuador, underscored that IP tools could empower indigenous peoples and local communities to protect their TK. The speakers' presentations are available at https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=74409. The recording is available at <https://webcast.wipo.int/video/WIPO IPTK GR GE 22 2022-11-28 PM 117624>.

On November 29, 2023, speakers discussed disclosure requirements related to GRs and associated TK. The possible patent disclosure requirements are currently being negotiated within the IGC as one of the key issues to be addressed by the international legal instrument that will be concluded during the 2024 Diplomatic Conference on GRs and associated TK. Her Excellency Ambassador Sofia Boza, Permanent Representative of Chile to the World Trade Organization, moderated the discussion. The speakers were:

- Mr. Zhao Fuwei, Associate Professor, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, China
- Ms. Ann Ruth Reyes, Division Chief, Agricultural and Biotechnology Examining Division of the Bureau of Patents, Philippines
- Mr. Benson Mpalo, Deputy Registrar- IP, Patents and Companies Registration Agency, Zambia
- Mr. Axel Braun, President, Axel Braun Consulting

Mr. Mpalo and Ms. Reyes explained the national legislation in Zambia and the Philippines regarding disclosure requirements, such as objectives, subject matters, triggers, contents of disclosure and sanctions, respectively. They also shared the challenges faced by their IP offices with the implementation of disclosure requirements. Mr. Zhao shared his views on the objectives of international disclosure requirements and presented the key findings of his research in this area. Mr. Braun expressed his concerns regarding disclosure requirements and shared some highlights of the economic impact study conducted by the IFPMA and CropLife in 2018. All speakers were invited to share their thoughts on the relationship between disclosure requirements and information systems. The moderator also invited all speakers to elaborate on the most important pending issues on which they believed a resolution would still be needed, to support the negotiation for an international legal instrument relating to IP, GRs and TK associated with GRs at the diplomatic conference to be held no later than 2024. The recording of the discussion is available at [https://webcast.wipo.int/video/WIPO IPTK GR GE 22 2022-11-29 PM 117642](https://webcast.wipo.int/video/WIPO_IPTK_GR_GE_22_2022-11-29_PM_117642).

Mr. Wend Wendland, the Director of the WIPO Traditional Knowledge Division, and Mr. Liu Jian, the Deputy Director General of the CNIPA International Cooperation Department closed the International Symposium. In his closing remarks, Mr. Wendland expressed great appreciation on behalf of the WIPO Secretariat and all participants for the support provided by the CNIPA for the holding of the International Symposium.

[End of Annex and of document]